

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/724,972

Applicant(s)

DOUCETTE-STAMM ET AL.

Examiner

Padmavathi v. Baskar

Art Unit

1645

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 33-34 and have been renumbered as 1-11 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application  |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/11/06</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                                    |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The after final amendment filed on 9/20/06 is acknowledged and entered.

#### ***Status of Claims***

2. Claims 1-9 have been amended.

Claims 10-32 are canceled.

Claims 1-9 and 33-34 are pending.

#### ***Examiner's amendment***

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Mercedes Meyers on 10/11/06 (see attached interview summary). The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An isolated host cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing the isolated host cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended ) An isolated host cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing the isolated host cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.

Art Unit: 1645

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising~~ consisting of at least twenty contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 2580.

4. In view of amendments to the claims, the rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph are withdrawn .

5. In view of amendments to the claims, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Goh et al (Clin Microbiol, 1996 ) is withdrawn.

6. The instant claims define a novel recombinant isolated nucleic acid sequence , 2580 and an nucleic acid sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding *Staphylococcus epidermidis*( *S. epidermidis*) polypeptide, SEQ.ID.NO:6352obtained from *S. epidermidis* strain, 18972. Claims are also directed to isolated host cells comprising recombinant expression vector comprising said claimed nucleic acid encoding *S. epidermidis* polypeptide.

*S. epidermidis* is a Gram-positive, non-motile, non-pigmented and coagulase-negative cocci, which are mainly found on the skin and mucous membrane of warm-blooded animals. *S. epidermidis* is a major cause of infection of indwelling foreign devices such as, orthopedic devices, intravenous catheters, prosthetic heart valves, central nervous system shunts, and peritoneal dialysis. In addition *S. epidermidis* is a common cause of postoperative wound infections, bacteremia of immunosuppressed patients, intensive-care unit patients and premature newborns. Therefore, the recombinant nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptides are useful for diagnosing clinical infections caused by *S. epidermidis* .

### **Conclusion**

7. Claims 1-9 and 33-34 are allowed and have been renumbered as 1-11 respectively.

8. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600, AU 1645 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be transmitted via the PTO Fax Center, which receives transmissions 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The transmission of such papers by facsimile must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30, November 15, 1989. The Right Fax number is 571-273-8300.

**Clean copy of allowed and renumbered claims:**

Claim 1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid encoding *S. epidermidis* polypeptide SEQ. ID.NO: 6352.

Claim 2. A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.

Claim 3. An isolated host cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.

Claim 4. A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing the isolated host cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.

Claim 5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the *S. epidermidis* polypeptide, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 2580.

Claim 6. A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.

Claim 7. An isolated host cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.

Claim 8. A method for producing the *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing the isolated host cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.

Claim 9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising~~ consisting of at least twenty contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 2580.

<sup>10</sup>  
Claim ~~33~~. An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2580.

<sup>11</sup>  
Claim ~~34~~. An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6352.

Art Unit: 1645

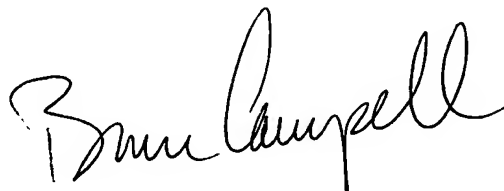
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PMR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PMR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PMR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Padma Baskar Ph.D., whose telephone number is ((571) 272-0853. A message may be left on the Examiner's voice mail system. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. except First Friday of each bi-week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, Albert Navarro can be reached on (571) 272-0861. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.



Padma Baskar Ph.D.



**BRUCE R. CAMPPELL, PH.D**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600**